

Using different sources of landcover ...

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Sep 20, 2007 Though the sample data distributed in the LIS testcases use the UMD landcover datasets, which consists of 13 landcover types, other sources of data (USGS, IGBP, etc) can also be used. However, the user needs to make sure that the landmask employed in the simulation is consistent with the landcover, soils and other parameter datasets.

When LIS is run in an offline/uncoupled mode, the computations are performed only on valid "land points" with all ocean/water points omitted. LIS figures out the validity of land points based on the specified landmask. If there is an inconsistency between the landmask and a parameter data (landmask says valid land point, but the parameter data says invalid), the program will fail. To avoid this issue, all parameter data used in LIS should conform to the same landmask. The [LIS data processing guide](#) provides instructions on how to derive an associated landmask from a given landcover data and other datasets.

A caveat: Another option to avoid remasking all parameter data (since doing this for global 1KM data can be time consuming), the landcover data can be remasked to fit the UMD landmask (assuming all parameter data conform to the UMD landmask). Tags: lis, landcover